

## DISTRIBUTED GLOBALLY ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION NETWORK

Abstract of the Disclosure

A distributed information network (10) is constructed for gathering  
5 information from sites (16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30) distributed across a globally  
accessible computer network, *i.e.*, the Internet. The distributed information network  
preferably includes a root server (14) that stores a list of multiple distributed sites  
each represented by metadata. A network browser (12) delivers an information  
search request to the root server, which in response develops a profiled information  
10 search request. The information provider of each of the distributed sites stores  
metadata corresponding to information content that is retrievable in response to the  
profiled information search request for search results derivable from the information  
content to which the metadata correspond. A profiled information communication  
link between the root server and each of the multiple distribution sites enables  
15 formation of a path for delivery of the search results to a destination site, from a site  
or sites represented by the metadata of the profiled information search request.

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